

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A nucleic acid encoding a fusion polypeptide wherein the fusion polypeptide comprises a first subunit comprising at least one copy of the receptor binding domain of a ligand, the first subunit being fused to the N-terminal end of a multimerizing component, said multimerizing component being fused at its C-terminal end to a second subunit comprising at least one copy of the receptor binding domain of a ligand.
2. The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the receptor binding domains of the first and second subunits are copies of the receptor binding domain of the same ligand.
3. The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the receptor binding domains of the first subunit are copies of the receptor binding domain of a different ligand from the receptor binding domains of the second subunit.
4. The nucleic acid of claim 2, wherein the first and second subunits each have one copy of the receptor binding domain of the ligand.
5. The nucleic acid of claim 3, wherein the first and second subunits each have one copy of the receptor binding domain of the ligand.
6. The nucleic acid of claim 2, wherein the receptor binding domain is the fibrinogen domain of angiopoietin-1 or angiopoietin-2.
7. The nucleic acid of claim 4, wherein the receptor binding domain is the fibrinogen domain of angiopoietin-1 or angiopoietin-2.

8. The nucleic acid of claim 2, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of the EPH family of ligands.
9. The nucleic acid of claim 4, wherein the ligand is selected from the group consisting of the EPH family of ligands.
10. The nucleic acid of claims 1 through 9, wherein the multimerizing component comprises an immunoglobulin derived domain.
11. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 10, wherein the immunoglobulin derived domain is selected from the group consisting of the Fc domain of IgG, the heavy chain of IgG, and the light chain of IgG.
12. A fusion polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of claims 1 through 11.
13. A composition comprising a multimer of the fusion polypeptide of claim 12.
14. The composition of claim 13, wherein the multimer is a dimer.
15. A vector which comprises the nucleic acid molecule of claims 1 through 11.
16. An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claims 1 through 11, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is operatively linked to an expression control sequence.
17. A host-vector system for the production of a fusion polypeptide which comprises the expression vector of claim 16, in a suitable host cell.

18. The host-vector system of claim 17, wherein the suitable host cell is a bacterial cell, yeast cell, insect cell or mammalian cell.
19. The host-vector system of claim 17, wherein the suitable host cell is E. coli.
20. The host-vector system of claim 17, wherein the suitable host cell is a COS cell.
21. The host-vector system of claim 17, wherein the suitable host cell is a CHO cell.
22. A method of producing a fusion polypeptide which comprises growing cells of the host-vector system of claims 17 through 21, under conditions permitting production of the fusion polypeptide and recovering the polypeptide so produced.
23. A nucleic acid encoding a fusion polypeptide wherein the fusion polypeptide comprises more than one copy of the receptor binding domain of a ligand in tandem, and wherein either the N-terminal or the C-terminal receptor binding domain is also fused to a multimerizing component.
24. The nucleic acid of claim 23, wherein the receptor binding domains are fused contiguously.
25. The nucleic acid of claim 23, wherein the ligand is not a member of the EPH family of ligands.
26. The nucleic acid of claim 24, wherein the ligand is not a member of

the EPH family of ligands.

27. The nucleic acid of claim 23, wherein the receptor binding domain is the fibrinogen domain of angiopoietin-1 or angiopoietin-2.
28. The nucleic acid of claim 24, wherein the receptor binding domain is the fibrinogen domain of angiopoietin-1 or angiopoietin-2.
29. The nucleic acid of claims 23 through 28, wherein the multimerizing component comprises an immunoglobulin derived domain.
30. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 29, wherein the immunoglobulin derived domain is selected from the group consisting of the Fc domain of IgG, the heavy chain of IgG, and the light chain of IgG.
31. A fusion polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of claims 23 through 30.
32. A composition comprising a multimer of the fusion polypeptide of claim 31.
33. The composition of claim 32, wherein the multimer is a dimer.
34. A vector which comprises the nucleic acid molecule of claims 23 through 30.
35. An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claims 23 through 30, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is operatively linked to an expression control sequence.

36. A host-vector system for the production of a fusion polypeptide which comprises the expression vector of claim 35, in a suitable host cell.
37. The host-vector system of claim 36, wherein the suitable host cell is a bacterial cell, yeast cell, insect cell or mammalian cell.
38. The host-vector system of claim 36, wherein the suitable host cell is E. coli.
39. The host-vector system of claim 36, wherein the suitable host cell is a COS cell.
40. The host-vector system of claim 36, wherein the suitable host cell is a CHO cell.
41. A method of producing a fusion polypeptide which comprises growing cells of the host-vector system of claims 36 through 40, under conditions permitting production of the fusion polypeptide and recovering the polypeptide so produced.